

Appl. No.: 10/605,383
Amdt. Dated: 7/10/2006
Reply to Office action of: 05/02/2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A snap-in cluster attachment for attaching the lower edge of a cluster housing to, and aligning said cluster housing within, an IP retainer, and allowing connections to the rear of the cluster housing before final positioning and attachment within said IP retainer without requiring IP retainer guide channels and corresponding cluster guides, by snapping the at least one mounting pin on the lower edge of the cluster housing into place in the corresponding at least one IP retainer opening having mounting pin retaining members located therein comprising:

- a) at least one attachment member fixedly attached to the lower edge of the cluster housing, said attachment member comprising a body having two ends and two sides wherein one end is attached to the lower edge of the cluster housing and the other end terminates in a mounting pin oriented perpendicular to the sides of the attachment member; and
- b) at least one corresponding opening in the IP retainer having mounting pin retaining members, at least one of said retaining members being positioned in opposition to the rest of said retaining members disposed therein for receiving, aligning, and holding the mounting pin of the at least one attachment member.

Claim 2 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said snap-in cluster attachments allow the cluster housing to be rolled upward for fixedly attaching the cluster housing by its top edge to the IP retainer.

Claim 3 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said at least one attachment member and at least one corresponding opening comprises 2 or more attachment members and 2 or more corresponding openings.

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Claim 4 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said attachment members are molded as an integral part of the cluster housing.

Claim 5 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said openings in the IP retainer having mounting pin retaining members disposed therein are molded as an integral part of said IP retainer.

Claim 6 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said mounting pin has a diameter of from about 2.0 mm to about 10.0 mm, preferably about 5.0 mm.

Claim 7 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said mounting pin retaining members have a wall thickness of from about 1.0 mm to about 5.0 mm, preferably 3.0 mm.

Claim 8 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said cluster housing and said attachment member are composed of styrene.

Claim 9 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said IP retainer and said mounting pin retaining members consist essentially of a material selected from the group acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polycarbonate acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (PC/ABS), Norel, polypropylene, and other engineered materials.

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Claim 10 (currently amended) A snap-in cluster attachment for attaching the lower edge of an instrument cluster housing to, and aligning said cluster housing within, an IP retainer, and allowing connections to the rear of the cluster housing before final positioning and attachment within said IP retainer without requiring IP retainer guide channels and corresponding cluster guides, by snapping the at least one mounting pin on the lower edge of the cluster housing into place in the corresponding at least one IP retainer opening having mounting pin retaining members located therein comprising:

- a) at least one attachment member fixedly attached to the lower edge of the instrument cluster housing, said attachment member comprising a body having two ends and two sides wherein one end is attached to the lower edge of the instrument cluster housing and the other end terminates in a mounting pin oriented perpendicular to the sides of the attachment member, and
- b) at least one corresponding opening in the IP retainer having mounting pin retaining members, at least one of said retaining members being positioned in opposition to the rest of said retaining members disposed therein for receiving, aligning, and holding the mounting pin of the at least one attachment member.

Claim 11 (original) The snap-in instrument cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said snap-in cluster attachments allow the instrument cluster housing to be rolled upward for fixedly attaching the cluster housing by its top edge to the IP retainer.

Claim 12 (original) The snap-in instrument cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said at least one attachment member and at least one corresponding opening comprises 2 or more attachment members and 2 or more corresponding openings.

Claim 13 (original) The snap-in instrument cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said attachment members are molded as an integral part of the instrument cluster housing.

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Claim 14(original) The snap-in instrument cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said openings in the IP retainer having mounting pin retaining members disposed therein are molded as an integral part of said IP retainer.

Claim 15 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said mounting pin has a diameter of from about 2.0 mm to about 10.0 mm, preferably about 5.0 mm.

Claim 16 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said mounting pin retaining members have a wall thickness of from about 1.0 mm to about 5.0 mm, preferably 3.0 mm.

Claim 17 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said cluster housing and said attachment member are composed of styrene.

Claim 18 (original) The snap-in cluster attachment as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said IP retainer and said mounting pin retaining members consist essentially of a material selected from the group acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polycarbonate acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (PC/ABS), Norel, polypropylene, and other engineered materials.